

JOHN MARTIN AND ELIZABETH GERTSCH HUBER



John Martin Huber, son of John Huber and Maria Magdalena Munz.

Born October 22, 1865, Mound City, Utah. Married Elizabeth Gertsch March 17, 1897, Salt Lake City Temple by John R. Winder. Died May 18, 1947, Midway.

Elizabeth Gertsch, daughter of Conrad Gertsch and Margaretha Gertsch. Born February 20, 1878, Wengen, Canton Bern, Switzerland. Died October 25, 1959, Midway.

John Martin Huber was born at Mound City, named because of many lime and stone formations. It was at that time just a few scattered log houses.

In 1866, because of Indian danger, the upper settlement, of which Mound City was a part, joined the lower settlement. The family moved to Fort Midway. They lived in a crude log cabin with a roof of dirt above and a floor of dirt below. The redeeming feature of the one large room was the big cheery fireplace in the south end. The cabin was located on the west side of the Fort, between the present homes of Brigham Wilson and Matilda Springer. Later the family built a new frame home at the corner where

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the Wilson home now stands. They lived here until 1876, when his father, who was employed as agent for the Wasatch and Jordan Valley railroad, moved his family to Cottonwood. About 1878, they moved back to Midway. The family settled at the ranch in Snake Creek and built the house which still stands.

John M. Huber was a farmer and he was never happier than when tilling the soil. Working without the aid of modern machinery, he grubbed the oak brush and cleared the land. He harvested with scythe and sickle. The major part of his life was spent in farming and stock raising. He was an ardent lover of outdoor beauty and found nature at her best as he watched the changing seasons on the farm in Snake Creek. Here in the summer he herded cows along the foothills of the mountains. When food was scarce, he gathered the plentiful Sego Lily bulbs. When time permitted, he pursued his favorite hobby of fishing in the snow-fed streams and springs on the farm.

The winters at Snake Creek were cold with deep snow. Often the family was snow-bound. He always walked the three miles to town to attend church or school. During the winter months, the family moved to town so he and the other children could attend school.

His schooling commenced at Midway, with Mrs. Woods as his first teacher. Among his other teachers were Mrs. Alexander and Leo Haefeli. While residing in Cottonwood, he attended St. Mary's of the Wasatch. For two years, he attended the Brigham Young Academy at Provo from Christmas until April.

He was baptized by Conrad Abegglen, June 2, 1876 and was confirmed the same day by Robert Cunningham. He was ordained a deacon, June 5, 1881, by Bishop David Van Wagoner and a teacher by his father, John Huber, March 11, 1888. His father also ordained him an elder. He was ordained a Seventy by Apostle Frances M. Lyman, November 2, 1890, and a High Priest, October 26, 1919, by Joseph Fielding Smith, Jr.

He received a call for the Swiss German Mission and left October 8, 1891 after having received his endowments at the Manti Temple. He was honorably released, November 11, 1893.

All of his married life was spent in Midway, with the exception of about seven

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years, when he was employed at the Daily West Mill in Park City.

He died at his home of heart failure at the age of 82. Just prior to his death, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Elizabeth Gertsch was born at Wengen, Canton Bern, Switzerland. Before she was old enough to go to school, her mother taught her the art of lace making. From early morning until night she worked. The finished lace was exchanged for groceries or sold to tourists who flocked to visit the health resort of Wengen, lying at the foot of the Jura.

With all its breath-taking beauty, Wengen was a difficult place to make a living. The grass on the steep mountain side had to be cut by hand with a scythe. The hay had to be harvested by hand. A small garden supplied fine flavored vegetables. Bread was brought from the store in Lauterbrunnen, Lauterbrunnen, located about four miles from Wengen, was reached by following a winding trail.

Her school days were happy days. Besides reading, writing, and arithmetic, she was taught to knit, sew, and crochet.

She was a member of the Lutheran Church, but became a convert to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, when Conrad Abegglen, a Mormon missionary from Midway, taught the gospel to the family. Because of the unpopularity and bitterness toward the Mormons and Mormonism, she was baptized in secret under cover of night, November 1890, by Brother Abegglen.

The family desired to come to Zion even though it meant making sacrifices. They put up their home, furniture and belongings for auction. The money received from the sale was not enough. Rather than wait until they could raise the remainder they decided to borrow it. With \$100 apiece to pay their fares and \$35 to take them to their destination, they left Bern, Switzerland, August 23, 1891, sailing from Liverpool, England.

When it became known about town that they were going to emigrate to America and cast their lot with the Mormons, the ministers from not only the Lutheran Church but all other denominations came to warn them against the Mormons and to plead with them to remain. They left their beautiful

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Wengen, their friends and relatives, knowing they would probably never see them again.

The journey on the ocean was not pleasant. Elizabeth was both homesick and seasick. After arriving in New York, there was the long and tiring rail trip to Echo. From here she traveled by wagon to Midway, arriving September 19, 1891.

After she arrived here she earned money by picking up potatoes, house work or any job she could find. For three weeks during the winter months she attended school. Attewall Wootton was her teacher. Later she went to Salt Lake City, where she was employed at the George Q. Cannon home and the Alram Cannon home.

After she was married to John Huber they lived in Midway for about three years then moved to Park City for about seven years when they moved back to Midway and remained there permanently.

In March 1947, she and her husband celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Two months later he died of heart failure. On February 22, 1958, she celebrated her 80th birthday with an open-house for her family and friends.

For many years she served faithfully in Relief Society as the chairman of the lunch committee and as a Relief Society block teacher. During the past years she has been afflicted with rheumatism, finding it painful to walk. This has kept her homebound much of the time. During her leisure, she spends many hours piecing quilts, sewing and crocheting.

John Martin Huber and Elizabeth Gertsch Huber were the parents of eleven children: Clara, Eva, (Mrs. Reese Arthur Wilson) Martin, Alma, (married to Nettie Frances Smith) Marquerite, Matilda, John Henry, (married to Florence Joanne Garlick) Hattie, (Mrs. Reed Harmer Walsh) Edith, (deceased) James Russell, (married to Margaret Meeks) Vera, (married to Jack I. Carlson).

HUBER, John, president of the Swiss and German Mission from 1872 to 1874, was born Nov. 1, 1840, in Dodtnacht, Canton Thurgau (near Constance), Switzerland, the son of John and Elizabeth Huber-Schonholzer. He was baptized May 4, 1860, ordained an Elder Sept. 8, 1860, by Jabez Woodward and labored as a traveling missionary in Switzerland and South Germany. He emigrated to Utah in 1863, was ordained a High Priest March 10, 1867, and being called on a mission, he left

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Salt Lake City, for Europe, May 3, 1871, exactly eight years from the time of his emigration to Utah. *LDS Bio 9 Ency 4:287*



JOHN HUBER

Born 1840, Dodtnacht, Switzerland. Came to Utah 1863, Peter Nebeker Company. Black Hawk War Veteran. Chorister.

HUBER, JOHN (son of Johannes Huber, born 1810, Weinfelden, and Anna Elizabeth Huber, born 1815, Dodtnacht, Switzerland—married in 1840). Born in 1840, at Dodtnacht. Came to Utah 1863, Peter Nebeker company.

Married Mary Magdalena Munz Oct. 18, 1863 (daughter of Henry and Margaret Munz), who was born Jan. 21, 1843, and came to Utah with husband. Their children:

John Martin b. Oct. 22, 1865, m. Elizabeth Gertsch; Henry Albert b. Oct. 7, 1867, m. Margaret Abegglen; Mary Magdalena b. Oct. 15, 1869, m. Jacob Brobst 1891; Emma Elizabeth b. Dec. 19, 1871, m. James Gibson; Otillia Eliza b. March 29, 1875, m. Alexander Gibson; Matilda b. May 8, 1877, died; Nephi b. Oct. 10, 1879, m. Anna Bronson; Joseph Emanuel b. Aug. 18, 1881; Ida b. May 7, 1883, m. William W. Abplanalp. Family home, Midway, Utah.

Missionary to Switzerland 1860-63, 1871-74; ward clerk at Midway 1878-1908; ward chorister 1880-1910. Black Hawk war veteran. Agent for Wasatch & Jordan valley railroad, shipping granite for Salt Lake temple 1875-78; took U. S. census 1880 and 1900; member school board 24 years; secretary of Midway Irrigation Company 10 years; compiled history of Midway ward from 1859 to 1905; justice of peace two years; agent of crop reporting for agricultural department of U. S. A. Composer of numerous songs and poetical compositions in German and English. *946*

HUBER, Johannes, Ward clerk and leader of the choir of the Midway Second Ward, Wasatch Stake, Utah, was born Nov. 1, 1840, at Dodtnacht, Canton Thurgau, Switzerland, the son of Johannes Huber and Anna Elizabeth Huber. He was baptized May 4, 1860, by Christian Moosmann; ordained a Teacher June 27, 1860, by Jacob Vollenweider; ordained an Elder Sept. 8, 1860, by Jabez Woodward, and ordained a High Priest March 10, 1867, by John H. Van Wagoner. Prior to emigrating from his native land, he labored as a local missionary in the Swiss and German Mission from 1860 to 1863. In the latter year he came to Utah and settled in Midway the following spring. In 1871-1874 he filled a mission to Switzerland and Germany, presiding over the mission from 1872 until he was released. He acted as clerk of the High Priests in Midway for a number of years, was Sunday school superintendent from 1868 to 1870, labored as a home missionary for several years and has been Ward clerk since 1878. Since 1882 he has also acted as choir leader. In a civil capacity he has served as county assessor, justice of the peace, member of the local school board, been United States census enumerator, etc. He has resided in Payson, Mound City and Midway and his main avocations in life have been farming, fruit-raising, bookkeeping, railroading and saw-milling. As a military man he participated in the Blackhawk war in 1866, suffered arrest and imprisonment a number of times for the sake of his religion while on his missions and was also mobbed several times. In 1863 (Oct. 18th) he married Mary Magdalena Munz, who has borne him four sons and five daughters.

LDS Bio 9. Enc 2:14